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CIA 4.01 MKULTRA

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Repressive Legislation

(orig under 4.01)

**COMMENT**

# The Spies Who Hate Us

*Dear Bill, the letter begins, I regret taking so long to supply you with my thoughts on the problems which you raised when I saw you last. Rather than attempt to organize a logical outline of all of the means by which the type of activity you mentioned might be accomplished, I am simply setting down the means that I think might be most efficacious.*

What "problem"? What "means"? What "type of activity"? The second paragraph of the letter offers a clue:

*I think that gross divisions in presenting the subject might be (1) bodies left with no hope of the cause of death being determined by the most complete autopsy and chemical examination, (2) bodies left in such circumstances as to simulate accidental death, (3) bodies left in such circumstances as to simulate suicidal death, and (4) bodies left with residua that simulate those caused by natural diseases.*

An earnest student of forensic pathology? A script consultant for a television thriller? A sophisticated hit-man for organized crime? No, a civil servant of the American taxpayer — a Central Intelligence Agency operative, to be precise — advising a colleague on how best to commit unobtrusive murder in behalf of the Government of the United States.

*I believe there are two chemical substances which would be most useful in that they would leave no characteristic pathologic findings, and the quantities needed could easily be transported. . . . Sodium fluoacetate, when ingested in sufficient quantities to cause death, does not cause characteristic pathologic lesions, nor does it increase the amount of fluorine in the body to such a degree that it can be detected by quantitative methods. The other chemical substance which I have in mind is tetraethyl lead which, as you know, could be dropped on the skin in very small quantities, producing no local lesion, and after a quick death no specific pathological evidence of the tetraethyl lead would be present.*

Neat. Unemotional. Efficient. Helpful. And there is more:

*If an individual could be put into a relatively tightly*

*sealed small room with a block of CO<sub>2</sub> ice. . . . Another possibility would be the exposure of the entire individual to x-ray. . . . Smother the victim with a pillow or. . . strangle him with a wide piece of cloth, such as a bath towel. . . .*

They do it all for us. The foregoing excerpts are from one of several hundred heavily censored documents recently released, in response to litigation under the Freedom of Information Act, detailing the most revolting enterprises undertaken — in our behalf, of course — by the CIA.

They hired physicians, scientists, and professors at distinguished universities to experiment with "avenues to the control of human behavior. . . including radiation, electroshock, various fields of psychology, psychiatry, sociology, and anthropology, graphology, harassment substances, and paramilitary devices and materials." They encouraged a doctor to try a drug inducing "catatonia or stupor" on convicts in a state penitentiary. They tested poison darts by firing them at animals in a national park. They played with magic and with aphrodisiacs. They tried some LSD, and someone died. There was hardly a stunt in James Bond's repertoire they *didn't* try. All for us — to protect our "national security."

They tell us now that they were carried away by an excess of zeal. Admiral Stansfield Turner, the CIA director, regrets what he modestly terms "a program of experimentation with drugs." He's sorry, and he assures us it isn't happening now and won't happen again. But how do we know? "What assurances are there," Daniel S. Greenberg asked in *The Washington Post*, "that after public attention has turned elsewhere, similar efforts will not be renewed on a craftier basis and with the squeamish screened out?"

There are no assurances. There is, rather, the virtual certainty that an agency chartered to protect "national security," cloaked in secrecy, and accountable to no one who does not share — or actively encourage — its conspiratorial mystique will continue to commit monstrous deeds. And, inevitably, the conduct of such an agency will be guided by the most